

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT: CENTRAL REGION

As the state’s chief financial officer, I am charged with monitoring the economic health of our state. Therefore, it’s vitally important that my office studies factors related to our regional economies.

The 20 counties comprising the Central Region cover the east central section of the state and houses a vital military community.

Below, we track regional trends in population growth, personal income, jobs and wages, education and government-sector dependence — a wildcard issue that, if left unaddressed, is of particular concern to the region.

-GLENN HEGAR

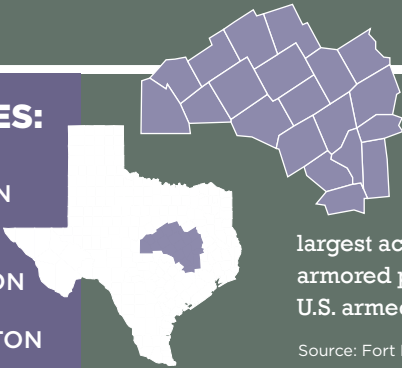
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

CENTRAL REGION COUNTIES:

BELL
BOSQUE
BRAZOS
BURLESON
CORYELL
FALLS
FREESTONE

GRIMES
HAMILTON
HILL
LAMPASAS
LEON
LIMESTONE
MADISON

MCLENNAN
MILAM
MILLS
ROBERTSON
SAN SABA
WASHINGTON



Killeen’s
Fort Hood
is the

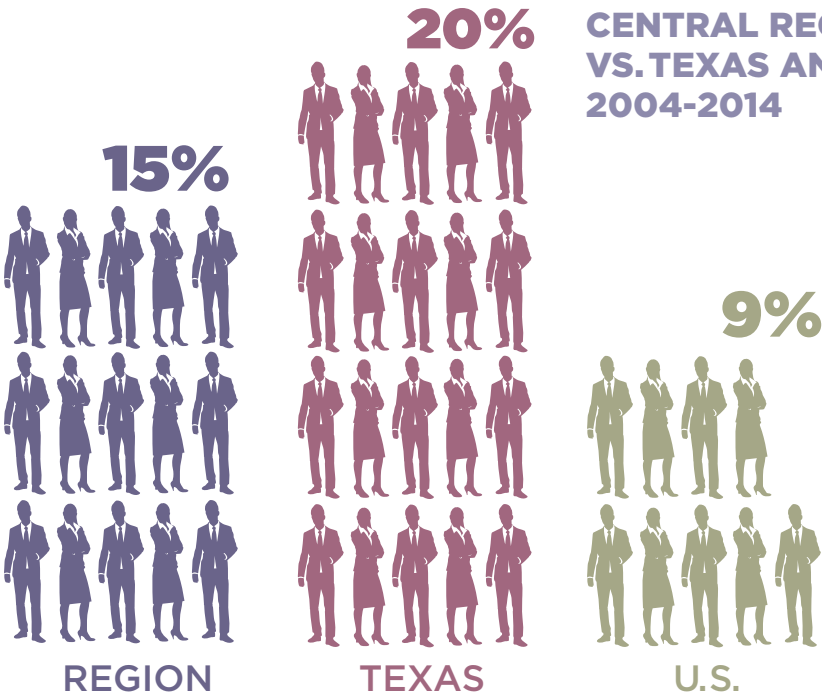
largest active-duty
armored post in the
U.S. armed services.

Source: Fort Hood

KEY INDUSTRIES 2016:

- AGRICULTURE, CONSTRUCTION AND MINING MACHINERY MANUFACTURING
 - NAVIGATIONAL, MEASURING, ELECTROMEDICAL AND CONTROL INSTRUMENTS MANUFACTURING
 - FOUNDRIES
 - FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (MILITARY)
 - EDUCATION AND HOSPITALS (STATE GOVERNMENT)
- COAL MINING
 - SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR MINING
 - OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION
 - WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS (EXCEPT SATELLITE)
 - ANIMAL SLAUGHTERING AND PROCESSING
 - SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION

POPULATION GROWTH



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

CENTRAL REGION
VS. TEXAS AND U.S.
2004-2014

WITH A
MEDIAN
AGE OF

32.4

THE CENTRAL
REGION IS ONE
OF THE STATE’S
YOUNGEST.

BRAZOS COUNTY, WITH
A MEDIAN AGE OF 24.5,
IS THE YOUNGEST IN
THE STATE.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

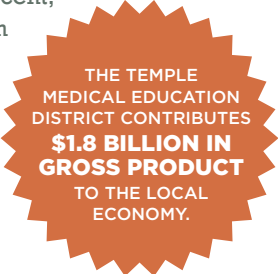


Source: Chappell Hill
Sausage Company

PERSONAL INCOME

Personal income in the Central Region grew from \$26 billion in 2004 to \$43 billion in 2014. It accounted for 4 percent of the state’s \$1.23 trillion in personal income in 2014.

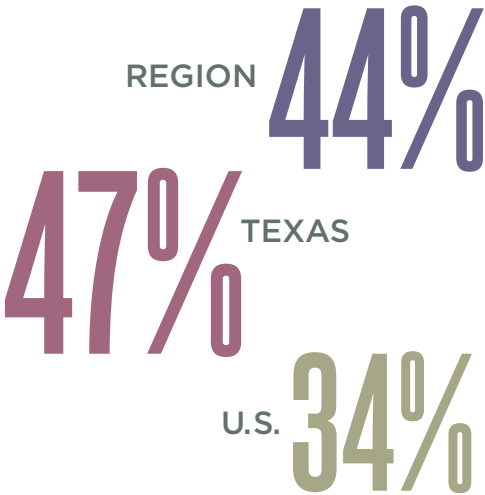
Per capita personal income rose by 44 percent, compared with the state’s 47 percent average.



Source: Temple Economic Development
Corporation Economic Impact Survey

COUNTY	2014 PER CAPITA INCOME	10-YR PER CAPITA INCOME GROWTH
Hamilton	\$50,220	77%
Washington	\$49,365	61%
Lampasas	\$46,618	63%
Robertson	\$44,251	68%
Burleson	\$40,097	70%
Leon	\$40,093	61%
Bell	\$40,007	36%
Bosque	\$38,229	56%
Milam	\$37,276	61%
Freestone	\$36,255	55%
Hill	\$36,121	53%
Mills	\$35,472	38%
McLennan	\$35,467	39%
Grimes	\$34,996	72%
San Saba	\$34,718	58%
Limestone	\$33,551	48%
Falls	\$33,517	53%
Brazos	\$32,740	45%
Coryell	\$32,678	32%
Madison	\$31,177	52%

PER CAPITA PERSONAL
INCOME GROWTH
2004-2014



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

JOBS & WAGES

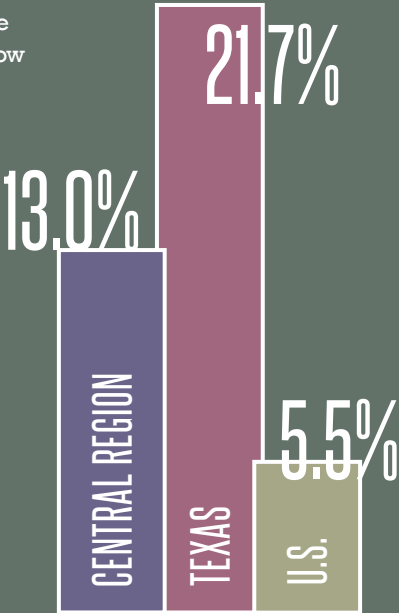
Central Region's 2014 average wage of \$42,000 was well below the state average of \$52,537.

The College Station-Bryan and Killeen-Temple metropolitan areas posted job gains of 23 percent and 14 percent, respectively. The Waco metropolitan area grew by just 7 percent.



Source: USDA Census of Agriculture & U.S. Census

JOB GROWTH 2004-2014



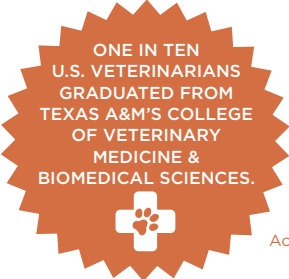
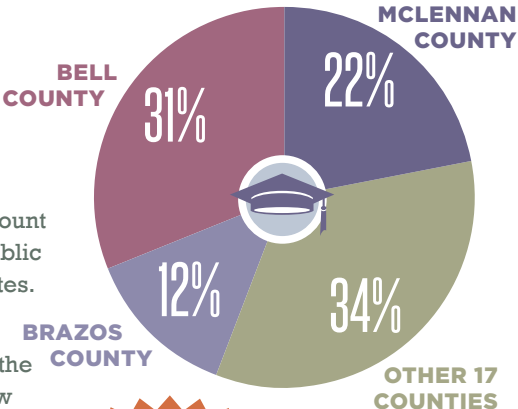
Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Intl.

EDUCATION

CENTRAL REGION PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 2014

Bell, McLennan and Brazos counties account for 65 percent of public high school graduates.

Public high school graduation rates in the Central Region grew by 5.7 percent from 2003-2012, slower than the state rate of 9.2 percent.



Source: Texas Education Agency and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Source: Texas A&M Academic Fact Sheets

GOVERNMENT-SECTOR DEPENDENCE

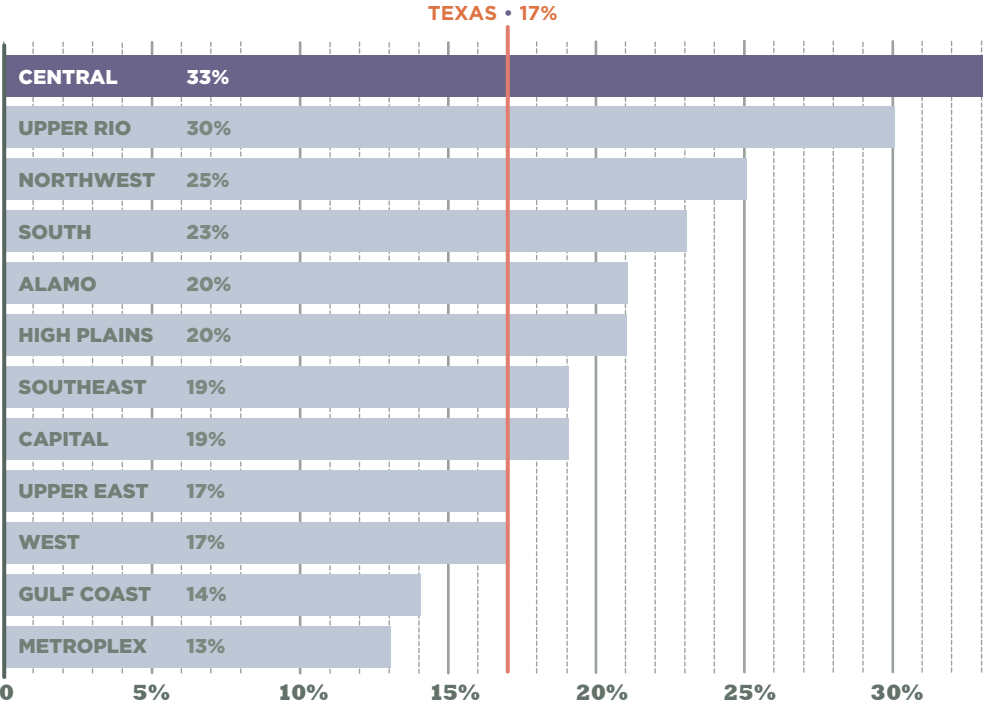
Public-sector employers provide nearly one of every three Central Region jobs. That's nearly double the state average.

The fact that government plays such a large role in job creation not only produces an economic imbalance but also makes the region especially vulnerable to the decisions of legislative budget writers.

Employers such as Fort Hood and Texas A&M University have helped drive economic growth in the Central Region, yet per capita income lags 19 percent behind the Texas average.

As military personnel cuts take effect during the next year and a half, the region could experience a financial downturn. A more diverse economy would be better positioned to sustain the blow.

GOVERNMENT JOBS AS SHARE OF REGIONAL ECONOMY, 2014



Source: Economic Modeling Specialists Intl. and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

CONCLUSION

The Central Region starts near the heart of Texas and rolls gently around the border of the Texas Hill Country. It houses one of the nation's most vital military communities as well as one of Texas' premier public research universities.

Two public entities — Fort Hood and Texas A&M — contribute to the region's relative youth and have helped produce modest but steady economic growth.

To boost this growth and improve economic health, the region

will need to recalibrate the gap between its public and private sectors.

Fortunately, its stability and youth provide a steady base for the development of a more diverse and sustainable economy.

Glenn Hegar

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

THE CENTRAL REGION IS ONE OF THE COMPTROLLER'S 12 ECONOMIC REGIONS.

To see a complete list of these regions, plus more in-depth county-by-county data, visit:

TEXASAHEAD.ORG/REGIONALRPTS